


In response, the applicants submit that this rejection is now moot. Specifically, and only to expedite prosecution and without prejudice to the applicants' right to seek a similar claim in a continuing application, claim 35 has been canceled by the foregoing amendment. Therefore, the applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the examiner is strongly urged to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: 
Thomas A. Cawley, Jr., Ph.D.
Reg. No.: 40,944
Tel. No.: (703) 905-2144
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

TAC\smm
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000